THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). Five religious communities namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zorastrians are treated as 'Minorities'. A 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities is being implemented. It basically seeks to ensure a feeling of security in the minds of the minorities.

(c) No, Sir.

Para-Military Net Work

2766. SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the Para-military net work in the country during Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the name of places where the new ballalions will be stationed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The strength of the Para-Military Forces is reviewed from time to time, keeping in view the various factors including the prevalent law and order situation, and action taken to augement the Forces as considered necessary.

Safety of Indian Citizens at Kuchlibari

2767. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps the Government propose to take to ensure safety and security of the Indian citizens inhabiting at Kuchlibari after the proposed transfer of "Tinbigha" to Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PAARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): A Strip of land measuring 178 m X 85 m known as 'Tin Bigha Corridor' in Cooch Bihar district of West Bengal will be leased in perpetuity to Bangladesh to connect their mainland with their enclave Dahagram-Angarpota jutting into Indian territory. There is no transfer of Indian territory involved. Sovereignty over the corridor will continue to vest in India. Indian citizens including the inhabitants of Kuchlibari will continue to have access through the Corridor. Govt. have been in consultation with the Govt. of West Bengal regarding finalisation of all necessary arrangements to be made after the leasing of the corridor to Bangladesh.

Declaration of Assets and Liabilities by Ministers

2768. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a code of conduct for Ministers under which every Minister has to make a declaration of his assets and liabilities;

(b) if so, the names of the Union Ministers who have not so far filled declarations of their assets and liabilities; and

(c) the action being taken to obtain such a declaration from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). There is a Code of Conduct for Ministers, Under this Code, a

person before taking office as a Union Minister has to disclose to the Prime Minister details of the assets and liabilities of himself and members of his family. After taking office, and so long as he remains in office, the Union Minister has to furnish annually by the 31st March to the Prime Minister a declaration regarding his assets and liabilities. It has not been the practice to disclose their details.

[*Translation*]

Pension for Widows, Handicapped and Old Age Persons

2769. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM': Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that widows handicapped and old age persons are given pension in Delhi;

(b) if so, the amount of pension given to such persons every month and when it was introduced;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the amount of the pension in view of the increase in prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir. Delhi Administration provides Old Age Pension to destitutes who have attained the age of 60 years. This pension is also provided to the disabled persons with a relaxation of 5 years in the prescribed age limit.

(b) Pension was introduced in 1975. It was enhanced from Rs. 60/- p.m. to Rs. 100/- p.m. from 1st April, 1987. At present the pension is Rs. 100/-p.m.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

Assistance to M.P. for the Development of Ambedkar Village

2770. SHRI BARELAL JATAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have provided any financial assistance to the Madhya Pradesh Government for the development of Ambedkar Villages;

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned;

(c) whether Union Government issued directions to the Madhya Pradesh Government in regard to the development of Ambedkar Villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of Bengalis in Pilibhit District

2771. DR. PARSHURAM GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to rehabilitate Bengalis who settled in Pilibhit district 40 years ago; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). All Bengali-speaking